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## **Cassis: “Michigan stands at a crossroads – governor’s glitz disguises real problems”**

LANSING—State Sen. Nancy Cassis made the following statement regarding the governor’s State of the State address:

“While Michigan stands at a crossroads, the governor’s State of the State address amounted to nothing more than a glitzy performance, providing only cosmetic solutions to the problems we face. Michigan is in trouble. We have the highest unemployment rate in the nation, and though the rest of the nation is experiencing job growth, Michigan continues to lose jobs. We need jobs now, not two or three years from now.

“The governor’s solution: mortgage Michigan’s future for a plan with no guarantee of creating jobs. It is the same old story, spend and tax, tax and spend. At a time when the state faces continuing deficits, this is not the solution. The governor is not an economist. As chair of the Senate Finance Committee, I can tell you that any economist would tell her that the best way to grow the economy and make Michigan more competitive is through broad-based tax relief to individuals, families and businesses. It is proven to work.

“Expanding the role of government only adds to the problem. The state’s role is to create a climate for businesses to create jobs and foster private investment. Michigan is best when the entrepreneurial spirit of its residents is allowed to thrive.

“Meanwhile, the governor’s proposal to change the Michigan Merit Scholarship breaks a promise made to the students in our state and denies them upfront help for school. A better solution is to institute an early prevention/intervention program for K-2 to help reduce the potential for learning failures later; provide financial support for partnerships between schools and the business sector, “technical academies for the mind,” such as LEGO leagues and robotic teams; and develop technical high schools like those in New York and Europe.

“The answer to our financial woes is to budget for outcomes and demand results for the money that is spent. We must fund necessities before niceties. Furthermore, broad-based tax relief will provide the stimulus necessary to make Michigan competitive and create the jobs needed for a healthy economy.”

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